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Turning Point Presence Sparks Concerns On Campus

Sabr Keres-Siddiqui
SLA Editor

Angela Loeser
Contributing Writer

Recent news regarding a new chapter of well-known right-wing political group Turning Point USA, founded by the late conservative podcaster Charlie Kirk, has sent Drew students into furious debate. Many members of the Drew community – students, faculty and staff alike – have raised serious concerns about its newfound presence on Drew's campus.

At the beginning of March, posters began to spread around campus buildings like Hall of Sciences, Brothers College and Seminary Hall emblazoned with an invitation to “come join our Turning Point USA chapter starting up [at Drew].” Each had a QR code leading to a form requesting a name, email and school affiliation.

Many students also noticed that some of TPUSA's posters in Seminary Hall appeared to block those of cultural clubs from view, such as one advertising a “Know Your Rights” event jointly held by immigrants' rights collective Esperanza and Hispanic heritage theme house La Casa Latina. Another blocked one advertising an arts fair for victims of sexual and domestic violence.

The Drew community has a history of swiftly reacting to and protecting its members against the presence of political violence and bigotry on our campus in the past as well. Despite many being severely rattled by recent rumors of an Immigration and Customs Enforcement presence at Drew, the Drew community leapt into action the moment news started to spread.

Many took to the paths to warn friends and classmates, while students and faculty alike began to surgically comb through campus streets and hallways to check for any signs of ICE activity. Within just two or three hours, the community response thankfully confirmed that the rumors were mistaken, much to the relief of many students of color.

This time, the overwhelming condemnation



An image of Turning Point USA supporters.

of Turning Point from the campus community was similarly immediate. Students quickly began to sound the alarm on social media: “Turning Point USA is evil and it better not corrupt this campus,” said one Yik Yak user. “This is not what the fans [want to] see,” commented another. “Get that... outta here,” remarked a third.

However, with not much information from Drew's administration on the source of these flyers or whether they have even been approved as an organization – let alone the potential threat they might pose to those from marginalized backgrounds – the prevailing sentiment on campus is anger and concern.

Students and faculty are right to be concerned. Turning Point has a long history of visiting college campuses (often without permission from school officials) and inflaming tensions in order to deliberately stoke fear and division among students and professors.

This is clearly displayed in many incidents nationwide such as at Arizona State University, where the Guardian reports that professor David Boyles, who identifies as queer, was physically assaulted and injured by two Turning Point members after they accosted and harassed him about “his sexuality and the classes he teaches” without provocation.

In another flagrant display of disdain for any and all forms of the respectful debate that the group claims to promote, Turning Point was also involved in a campaign of “threats and harassment”

at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J. (barely 45 minutes from Drew) including a string of death threats and doxing that made professor of global history Mark Bray feel a necessity to temporarily leave the United States out of fear for his, his family's and his children's safety.

A student in one of his classes posted a screenshot online of Bray's announcement on Canvas, in which Bray explains that “since my family and I do not feel safe in our home at the moment, we are moving for the year to Europe.” This came immediately after he was sent another threat that included his home address.

A change.org petition has also been started by other concerned students asking Rutgers to “disband” its chapter of TPUSA immediately. “Turning Point USA espouses rhetoric that is harmful to our students and defies a man who was racist, homophobic, Islamophobic and misogynistic,” say signers of the petition; “this kind of hate speech only breeds bigotry and contempt.”

This clearly indicates a pattern of fearmongering and violence that should be extremely disturbing and worrying to any American, let alone members of a college community such as Drew where students come to learn and grow.

How are we as students supposed to pay attention in our classes when right-wing extremists continually threaten to come to our campuses not to learn, but for target practice? How are we and

our friends and classmates to feel safe walking through the halls of Brothers College under the ever-looming possibility that our paths could become a haven for violence and hate?

No official response has yet been shared by Mead Hall. The department of Student Engagement told student government senators who approached them with concerns that their office was very limited in what it could do to restrict things like this without said response.

“No one should tolerate death threats nor political violence. Take responsibility for your words and actions,” says another petition signer—and there is an urgent and undeniable need for us to follow that advice.

This kind of ignorance and bigotry has no place whatsoever in our school. We urge Drew to follow the precedent of swift responses set by our community. We must take action now—before it's too late—to stand against TPUSA on our campus and prevent this hateful drivel from spreading any further.



Sabr Keres-Siddiqui is a junior majoring in political science and minoring in anthropology and sociology.

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

I feel like it's rare these days to find people who truly appreciate film.

—Stephanie Yanes ('27)

SEE OSCARS, PG 2



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INTERESTED IN JOINING?

Any Drew student is welcome to join us for meetings every Thursday at 7p.m. in our office in McLendon.

Or visit thedrewacorn.com/join to request more information.

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2 NEWS

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What Does an AI Policy Mean for Drew?

Allison Cannon
News Editor

With the creation of the new college, implemented fall of 2025, and the uproar of AI usage all across the country, many students and faculty have been wondering when Drew University will release rules and policies about using AI on campus.

When the new college was introduced, it left many students with questions; How will the learning be balanced with AI? What is it? How will it work?

Many students know of the new college, and even though it is still a prototype, no one knows what it is and what the goal is. The impact that this college will have on the students is unknown so far, and should be addressed in the policies that are being created by the Sense Making group.

The AI Sense Making group is a group of administration, faculty, staff and a few graduate students who have been meeting since

September with the goal of creating policies that benefit the university and everyone in it.

Chief Academic Officer Steve Johnson, a member of the Sense Making group, explained in an interview that sense making begins with the phrase, “we don’t know [what will happen], but we need to act.”

It is important to note that there is no central push to have AI at the university. The policy work being done is to act as other universities act and create boundaries when they are needed to ensure integrity at the school.

Technology is forever changing and advancing, and with a complex subject like AI, policy for it won’t be made in a day. Johnson explained that, “we have to grapple with what the real triggers are. When we started this work six months ago, we weren’t thinking about Agentic AI.”

Working with ever-evolving technology, the Sense Making group has been meeting constantly, having already published a draft of the AI policy. How-

ever, they continue to rework and create new boundaries for topics like Agentic AI.

When it comes to the future of AI at Drew, Johnson stated that, “we will have to address it because it will continue... it’s unavoidable, and yet, there’s great risks.”

Like all university policies, the Sense Making group has to assess every risk that comes with introducing something new.

As Johnson creatively said, “cavemen created spears to hunt in new ways, which helped our brains develop, but at the same time, spears also murder people.” This metaphor is a perfect example of the ethical dilemmas that may arise, ones that the Sense Making group will have to face when introducing AI.

A key point that the group is trying to include within the policy work would be involving AI literacy for both students and staff. The goal of this would be to educate everyone on the disadvantages and advantages of having AI at school, as well as to help Drew make decisions as a community.

The policy work is still underway and changes will continue to be made, however the base draft will “provide a framework for the responsible, transparent, safe and equitable use of AI by all members of the Drew community.”

According to an email with Johnson, a group of faculty from the College of Arts and Sciences as well as the Theological School are planning on creating academic guidelines that will apply to time in the classroom and research use, and also will become integrated into the academic integrity guidelines. These guidelines will be released by administration before the start of the fall 2026 semester.

If you have any questions, reach out to us at the Acorn. theacorn@drew.edu, and we will forward the questions to the appropriate personnel.

Allison Cannon is a sophomore majoring in psychology and double minoring in Spanish and law, justice and society.

Drew Students Tune In to Oscars

Eva Esqueda
Editor-in-Chief

The night was marked by dynamic performances, emotional tributes and memorable speeches. In a vibrant performance of Best Original Song nominee “I Lied to You” from the film “Sinners,” country singer and rapper Shaboozey and accomplished ballerina Misty Copeland took to the stage alongside other performers and actors from the film.

Later on, actor Billy Crystal delivered a sentimental speech in remembrance of late director and activist Rob Reiner, who is known for having a vast cadre of celebrated films like “Stand by Me” and “A Few Good Men.” In an extended “In Memoriam” tribute, Rachel McAdams also spoke of her mentor and actress Diane Keaton, while Barbra Streisand reminisced on her relationship with actor Robert Redford through song and speech.

History was made, too, when Autumn Durald Arkapaw became the first woman and first black person to win the Academy Award for best cinematography for her work in “Sinners.” Now three-time Oscar winner Sean Penn was not in attendance as he won Best

Supporting Actor for his role in “One Battle After Another,” though Irish actress and “Hamnet” star Jessie Buckley continued her awards season sweep by taking home the prize for Best Actress in a Leading Role.

Michael B. Jordan won the Oscar for Best Lead Actor for his incredible double performance in “Sinners,” overtaking both Leonardo DiCaprio and Timothée Chalamet in a close race. Other notable prizes included Paul Thomas Anderson and his film’s win in the Best Directing and Best Picture categories, respectively.

From the warmth and safety of their dorms at Drew, several students celebrated the eventful show with watch parties and more. Gathered in the basement of McClintock, one group of friends bonded over their love of film with charcuterie boards, mocktails, ballots and bingo cards as the night went on. Other students like Lindsay Orellana (‘26) and Azra Ozan (‘26) watched the awards ceremony live from their respective homes, messaging each other throughout the night with updates, related social media posts and behind-the-scenes footage that they found interesting.

“I feel like it’s rare these days to find people who

truly appreciate film,” said one friend, Stephanie Yanes (‘27). “So being able to bond with my amazing friends is something that is so precious to me.”

Collin Nichols (‘28) also spoke about their shared watch party. “Attending a themed viewing party for the Oscars was an unparalleled experience. Being surrounded by fellow film enthusiasts was amazing. The added excitement came from the printed ballots and bingo cards, and the ultimate prize winning Oscars within your friend group!”

Though awards season is technically over for the wide world of film, students can still look forward to other ceremonies coming up that may be of interest to them. The 79th Tony Awards, for instance, will be taking place on June 7, 2026, for all those who want to celebrate this year’s accomplishments in American theater.

Eva Esqueda is a senior majoring in media and communications and minoring in French, film and American studies.



IMAGE COURTESY OF COLLIN NICHOLS (‘28)

Decorations and cupcakes at a Drew Oscar party.

3 STUDENT LIFE & ARTS

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Celebrating Black and Brown Women at Drew

Casey Bush
 Copy Editor

Since March is Women’s History Month, there have been many events across campus that have been devoted to honoring and supporting women at Drew. One example of this was the “Black and Brown Women at Drew” talk that was held on Monday, March 16, in the 1867 Lounge of the Ehinger Center.

Members of The Office of Student Engagement who specialize in DEI created Black and Brown at Drew to host events and meetings that work towards building community, fostering meaningful conversations and providing a space for Black and Brown students on campus to feel welcome and seen.

This event was formed with the same hopes in mind, but with the focus of discussions led by and for women on Drew’s campus.

Community Advisors Julisha Moses (‘26) and Fundi Ngcongwane (‘27) hosted this event in collaboration with The Office of Student Engagement and The Office of Residence Life.

When asked about the planning process and over-



Event hosts Fundi Ngcongwane (‘27) and Julisha Moses (‘26)

all intentions of the event, Moses said, “When I gave the idea, it was just as a way to center Black women in the conversations that we already have at Black and Brown at Drew, and to create a space for everyone in attendance to recognize the experiences and difficulties that come with being a person of color on campus.”

The event consisted of questions facilitated by Moses and Ngcongwane followed by open, honest and meaningful conversations from the men and women of color who attended regarding their experiences at Drew and in their personal lives.

Certain topics of discussion included their personal definitions and meanings of womanhood as well as representation and identity on and off campus.

Students mentioned that, for them, womanhood means having a community, growing individually though also growing as one and having shared cultures and experiences. They also stated that they often find such communities within their homes and families, in their friend groups or clubs and within each other as people of color at Drew.

Many mentioned the importance of vast and diverse representation on

campuses, in media and in everyday life when asked about their personal definitions of the term. Yet, some also stated that certain forms of representation only show one aspect of diversity—which can be extremely limiting. This can lead to strict mindsets that stem from negativity that hinder daily life and growth.

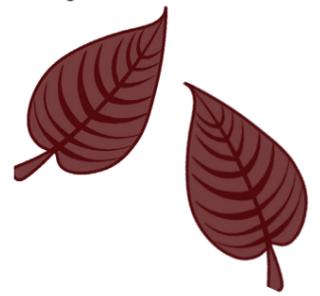
The students were also asked about where they felt that they are most represented and the most safe at Drew. It was widely agreed upon that student-led groups with often succeed at demonstrating diversity and devoting time and space to represent those who deserve to be seen and heard. Additionally, many often find the most representation in groups of friends who look, act or live similarly to how they do, and within their families.

While Drew strives to be an inclusive and positive environment, it was also shared that oftentimes Black and Brown women and men feel less safe within certain majors, minors or in classrooms as a whole. Certain majors fall within primarily male dominated fields of work, and this manifests in the classroom. Though some areas of studies are fe-

male-led, they are often still not areas of which Black and Brown women can feel the most represented and safe.

This further highlights the importance of creating events such as this where students of color can find community, feel connected on an interpersonal level and where their safety is prioritized. Above all, this highlights the need for inclusivity and diversity in classrooms and on college campuses as a whole.

Black and Brown at Drew will continue to host events like this that create welcoming environments and bring up important discussion topics. Their next event will focus on navigating the workforce as a person of color; taking place on March 26 at 5:30 p.m. in The Space.



Casey Bush is a sophomore majoring in psychology and minoring in writing and com-

Volunteer Without Borders’ West Virginia Trip!

Jaden Finn
 Assistant SLA Editor



Image Courtesy of Molly Clinton (‘29)

Volunteers overlooking Kayford Mountain, WV.



Image Courtesy of Jaden Finn (‘28)

Volunteers hiking up Kayford Mountain, WV.



Image Courtesy of Gin Mitchell (‘26)

Volunteers doing yoga in New River Gorge National



Image Courtesy of Grace Gannon (‘27)

Members of the VWB board that led the trip: Rachel Parker (‘28), Cass Perez (‘27) and Jaden Finn (‘28).



Image Courtesy of Rachel Parker (‘28)

Volunteers at Peach Tree Falls, WV.



Image Courtesy of Rachel Parker (‘28)

Volunteers at the Marsh Fork of Coal River.

Jaden Finn is a sophomore majoring in environmental science and minoring in theater.

Acorn Editorial Board's Spring Break!



Katie Germinder ('27)'s snapshot of the Delaware River!



Hailey Lewis ('28) and Allison Cannon ('28) at Forks, Washington!



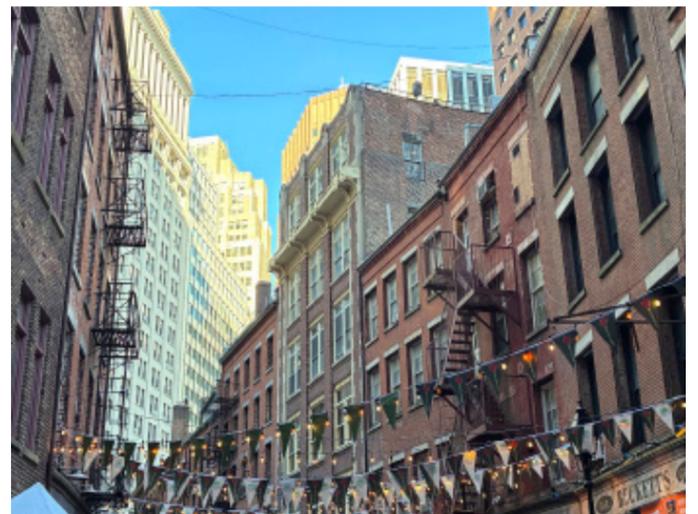
Hailey Lewis ('28) and Allison Cannon ('28) in the forest!



Eva Esqueda ('26)'s snapshot of an exhibit in the Egyptian section of



Eva Esqueda ('26)'s snapshot of Griffin Harris (C'24) in front of a waterfall at MacMillan Brook!



Eva Esqueda ('26)'s snapshot of Stone Street festival for St. Patrick's



From left to right: Jared Simonetti (C'25), Jordyn Casanova-Ghosh ('28) and Katie Germinder ('27)!



Hailey Lewis ('28) and Allison Cannon ('28) in front of a sculpture!

OPINIONS

SPEAK UP!

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Submit a letter to the editor or contribute an opinion piece (500 WORDS APROX). Email theacorn+opinions@drew.edu

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Lead Ed: Drew Wants a Better Commencement Speaker for the Class of '26

LEAD EDITORIAL

Drew announced Marc Freedman, founder and co-CEO of the non-profit organization CoGenerate (formerly Encore.org), as its speaker for its 158th commencement ceremony. CoGenerate works to reduce what Freedman called in a 2024 Marketplace article a state of “age-apartheid,” which he described as the increasing divide between generations in America, occurring at the same time as record amounts of “age diversity.” CoGenerate aims to bring young and old generations together to solve these problems. The solutions proposed, however, fundamentally misassess the problems they are trying to solve.

In articles for the Wall Street Journal and Marketplace, Freedman is quoted targeting the current housing situation as a leading factor for age-based division. The Marketplace article goes on to mention how housing affordability is at its lowest level in 60 years, and how, to help solve both this and the age divide, there should be a shift towards multigenerational housing. This not only faces problems in terms of how many families could actually benefit, but it also fails to address root causes of the housing affordability crisis.

The root causes of the housing crisis lie in zoning rules that restrict the amount of affordable housing able to be built, and in problems associated with a corporatization of the housing industry, like artificially inflated costs of rent. This results in a housing market where 75% of homes are unaffordable for the median household, according to Bankrate. Trying to solve this problem by cramming more people into each household instead of making more than 25% of homes accessible to the average family fails to recognize the real issues.

Multigenerational housing also only works if one has a large enough family, an already strong relationship with their family and if the younger generations have the finances to support the older ones. Freedman has long championed an idea that would perhaps address that last point: what he calls “encore careers.” This is when, at what we would consider the age of retirement (mid-60s), individuals “take an early year of social security and use that to go back to school to re-skill, then work another year afterwards (without social security),” as explained by an Esquire article which quotes Freedman. Again, this looks at a problem, this time financial struggles in retirement, but chooses the

wrong solution. Instead of trying to strengthen Social Security as it is running out of money, perhaps by increasing taxes on the upper class in a United States that is at one of its highest levels of wealth inequality (based on the World Bank’s tracking of the Gini index), instead this solution tries to reduce the amount of Social Security that is paid out.

One sector where Freedman has pushed for seniors to fill jobs is in childcare. In an article he co-wrote for Newsweek, he proposed employing senior citizens in pre-K programs, given the “rippling labor shortages.” The problem, however, is not just that there is a “labor shortage” in the early childhood education industry, there is a wage shortage. As explained by the Center for the Study of Child Care Employment at UC Berkeley last March, “inadequate compensation drives high turnover rates and workforce shortages.” The national median hourly wage in the early childhood education industry is just \$13.07 (lower than the minimum wage in New Jersey and many other states), and few employers provide substantial benefits. Yes, there is a massive problem with having enough educators for early childhood programs, but the solution isn’t to flood the labor market with seniors

who would otherwise retire, but to fairly compensate the educators being pushed out of this vital position because wages are too low.

These policies reflect an attitude of pitting the responsibility of solving large societal problems on the individual, and especially those less fortunate individuals who are affected most by those very problems, instead of pushing for systematic solutions which can progress us all forward together.

Furthermore, Freedman has made clear his support for the incorporation of artificial intelligence into university classrooms. As one of the speakers of the “Wisdom Meets Innovation: How AI Will Transform Education and Connect Generations” panel hosted last spring by Drew University and the Wallis Annenberg Legacy Foundation, Freedman advocates for a technology that is rupturing learning methods for students of all ages. As we spoke about in a recent lead editorial, the Acorn does not think AI should have a place at Drew as a generator of student work and expression. To have Freedman as a commencement speaker would endorse this type of learning that could be detrimental to our university in the long run.

Historically, Drew University’s commencement

speakers have come from positions of clear public leadership, elected officials, renowned authors and influential artists—figures whose work engages systemic change. Speakers like Hillary Rodham Clinton and Cory Booker reflect a tradition of inviting individuals who not only identify societal challenges but have the platform to reshape the institutions behind them. Even speakers from entertainment, such as James Van Der Beek and Christopher Reeve, have been invited not simply for name recognition, but for their ability to connect personal experience to broader conversations about resilience, advocacy and social responsibility.

Marc Freedman, by contrast, represents a departure—not in credentials, but in approach. As founder of CoGenerate, his work focuses on bridging generational divides, yet his solutions consistently emphasize individual adaptation over structural reform. That shift signals not just a different background, but a different message—one that stands in tension with the more systemic, change-oriented tradition of Drew’s commencement stage.

The lead editorial is the collective opinion of the editorial board.

Twenty One Pilots in Theaters: An Experience That Was More Than I Ever Imagined

Katie Germinder
Opinions Editor

It can be difficult to stay for a limited time only, a movie was shown to a set amount of theaters across the United States and Canada that has so far made \$4.3 million in the box office since it debuted on March 1. It was a surreal experience for many fans. The film changed lives—well, it at least changed mine. The “Twenty One Pilots: More Than We Ever Imagined” movie gave me the concert experience I never got to have: being able to see my favorite band play while I revealed in their presence.

The movie was not just a movie-concert experience, it also showed the behind the scenes of the band’s Mexico City concert and how they brought it to life. There were interviews and conversational clips with Tyler Joseph, the singer and songwriter, and his bandmate Josh Dun, the drummer.

I personally have never been able to see Twenty One Pilots perform live before,

which made me even more excited to see the film in theaters. I have been listening to the music duo since middle school and their music still finds ways to be relatable and meaningful to me today as a college kid.

Prior to going to the theater, I dressed in my Twenty One Pilots merch (obviously) and put on red undershadow, a classic part of the whole band’s concert “uniform” or “get-up” that fans often wear to concerts. The final piece of my whole outfit was a beanie with cat ears, a nod to the band’s character Clancy who dons a masked hood with pointed ears at the top. I was then officially ready to head to the theater for an experience I would never forget.

The concert/documentary film fully immersed me as it played on the big screen, with the band’s music filling the speakers all around me. I was actively tapping my foot to the beat and nodding my head along to the lyrics that I know by heart. My eyes filled with tears as I heard

all these songs being played with flawless transitions.

The best part of the whole thing was seeing the visual effects and costumes come together, something I was never able to see before. Sure, music videos do the job, but being able to see how the band performs in concert was something that was a first for me. It solidified my desire to see Twenty One Pilots in concert when they tour again. Knowing how much love and dedica-

tion goes into every show and how much Joseph and Dun care about the fans makes me adore their music even more.

Walking out of the theater after the movie, I was speechless and overwhelmed with joy and pride that I was part of a bigger experience. Fans all over the country and all over the world, like me, came out to support the band and to support all the hard work and passion that the duo put into the movie



IMAGE COURTESY OF KATIE GERMINDER ('27).

Katie Germinder ('27) in 21 Pilots inspired makeup.

and the show, which happened to be their last show before their long hiatus was announced.

I hope this movie inspires other music artists to make a film showing the concert experience for fans who may not be able to see them live and give fans more insight into what work goes into a show. It keeps fans such as myself engaged with the artist, even if they aren’t really live right in front of me in the moment. It still meant so much to me to experience something like this and I would love to see something like this again from Twenty One Pilots or any of my other favorite artists



Katie Germinder is a junior majoring in environmental studies and sustainability, minoring in anthropology

The Latest Hip-Hop and Rap Releases of 2026

Casey bush
Copy Editor

On top of the newest releases within the music industry, especially when there are tons of genres, albums, playlists and songs to sift through. This can be even harder when new songs or albums are not spoken about or advertised on social media platforms, because how else will people know they're happening if not from TikTok or Instagram?

In just three short months since the start of the new year, there have been so many new drops from mainstream hip-hop and rap artists, some of whom we haven't heard from in years. However, even I did not know about most of them, and I spend countless hours of my days devoted to listening to music and searching for new things to listen to.

Because of this, I have compiled some of the latest hip-hop and rap releases of 2026, in case you missed them like I did.

1. Baby Keem's album "Ca\$ino."

I have to say: when I first listened to this album,

I was a bit disappointed. It felt like it was missing the flow like his older songs and albums. However, I was quick to change my opinions after I listened to the album a second, third and fourth time.

While some songs are worth listening to only once, there are others that continue to get better after each listen. The song "Ca\$ino" delivers that feeling I thought was missing from the album. It has the familiar Baby Keem lyricism, beat and style that was evident in his previous albums. I also really enjoyed "Birds and the Bees," "Highway 95 pt. 2" and "House Money." After three or four years, it is nice to have another album done well by Baby Keem.

2. A\$AP Rocky's "Don't Be Dumb" album.

A new A\$AP Rocky album was not on my 2026 Bingo card, especially because his last full project was released nearly eight years ago. But it is safe to say this album has been on repeat for me ever since it came out.

While there are some unlikable songs, the majority of the songs and their features fit with A\$AP Rocky's flow. "Helicopter" has been a personal favorite of mine

ever since it was released as a single before the album, but others on my list of favorites are "Stay Here 4 Life," "Don't Be Dumb / Trip Baby," "Playa" and "Fish n Steak (What it Is)." The features on these songs, like Brent Faiyaz and Tyler, The Creator perfectly fit the vibe of the album as a whole. It is a fun album with varying genres and styles, and it is definitely worth multiple listens.

3. Don Toliver's album "Octane."

"Octane" is a pretty good album overall. There are some really good songs, like "E85," "Body," "Tiramisu" and "ATM" which are most popular. Some others that are less known, but that are equally as good, are "Call Back" and "Secondhand."

If you have listened to this album, specifically "E85," you might understand that I now struggle to pronounce the word "significant" after hearing this song.

4. J. Cole's "The Fall Off."

I was excited for this album, though also weary as it was rumored that J. Cole would stop making music after this release. While the credibility of that statement is still unknown, what is

known is that this album was, in common J. Cole fashion, incredible. Out of 24 songs, there is not a single one that I thought was bad in any way.

J. Cole's ability to write powerful lyrics that always flow with the music behind them is very apparent in this album. Each song sounds so different from one another, but they are all so well done which makes it hard to pick a favorite. This album is definitely worth listening to in full because each song deserves its own time and praise.

5. Denzel Curry's album "Strictly 4 the Scythe."

While I am not the biggest fan of Denzel Curry, I can appreciate good music when I hear it. I loved all of the hard beats, which is usually what I enjoy from Denzel Curry, but some of the lyrics and featured artists did not do the rest of the songs justice.

I did not really have a favorite or least favorite, so the album was just okay overall.

Brent Faiyaz's album "Icon" and "Need It Bad," a single featuring Ama.

This is an honorable mention because this is technically R&B, but I couldn't

make a 2026 music review and not put this album and single in.

Each song on this album, other than the song "white noise" which is actually just white noise, combined lyricism, a catchy beat and Brent Faiyaz's beautiful voice to create emotional and palpable stories that you can feel even if you are not actually familiar with what is being mentioned.

The songs "other side," "wrong faces," "butterflies" and "pure fantasy" have different yet similar R&B styles, but they are without a doubt the best songs on the album.

Looking into future releases, there is a rumor that Ski Mask the Slump God will be dropping a new album soon, possibly named "The Lost Files 2," as an addition to his latest album released in July of 2025.



Casey Bush is a sophomore majoring in psychology, minoring in writing and communications.

Bruno Mars Album Review: The Timeless Artist Does It Again

Devan Sutaria
Sports Editor

In January 2018, Bruno Mars resided alone atop the mountaintop of music. Fresh off bringing home six Grammy awards for his retro-sounding R&B masterpiece "24K Magic" and a world tour spanning six continents and grossing over \$200 million, the Puerto Rican/Hawaiian/Filipino global superstar was breaking records and cementing himself as one of the defining voices of the 21st century.

However, in the years since, Bruno Mars' legacy grew to become synonymous with a different record: longest gap between a Grammy Album of the Year Winner and its studio follow-up. Despite achieving great success with collaborations such as "Die With a Smile" with Lady Gaga, "APT" with BLACKPINK's Rosé and "An Evening with Silk Sonic" with Anderson Paak, the music world waited nine years, three months and nine days for Bruno Mars' fourth solo studio album entitled "The Romantic."

With a record-setting wait came sky-high expectations, and Mars delivered. In just nine songs and 31 minutes, Mars beautifully toed the line between the experimental sounds of Latin America and his tried-and-

true original sound that elevated him to superstardom in the early 2010s.

The album opens with "Risk It All," a mariachi-infused track that immediately signals Mars's willingness to stretch beyond his comfort zone. Paired with romantic lyrics reminiscent of "Grenade," one of Mars' first-ever hits back in 2010, the production is best described as cinematic, blending traditional brass and guitar elements with the polished pop tendencies that define Mars' discography. The layered instrumentation and harmonious arrangements make the track feel regal, setting an ambitious tone for the long-awaited album.

Mars' vocal ability, long regarded as one of his greatest strengths, takes center stage on the rock-inspired "Nothing Left." Stripped of some of the heavier production found elsewhere on the album, the track allows Mars to fully showcase his range and vocal control. His voice moves effortlessly between delicate falsetto and powerful belts, giving the song a raw, heartfelt quality that highlights just how technically gifted he remains nearly two decades into his career.

Lyrical, the album shines brightest in the back-to-back track pairing of

"God Was Showing Off" and "Why You Wanna Fight." While still delivering vocal performances that remain unparalleled among male artists today, both tracks display a level of writing that balances cleverness with sincerity. "God Was Showing Off" seamlessly expresses the awe of complete adoration for someone, while "Why You Wanna Fight" takes a more introspective, yearning approach. Both tracks provide thoughtful lyrical moments while keeping the middle of the album from drifting into forgetful territory.

If there is a single moment that captures the album at its absolute peak, it arrives with "Dance With Me," the album's closing track. Historically, dedicated fans of Bruno Mars often declare his final track as the album's most impressive, referencing "If I Knew" off of "Unorthodox Jukebox" or "Too Good to Say Goodbye" off of "24K Magic." In this regard, "The Romantic" follows suit. The track is nothing short of perfection, effortlessly combining groove, melody and charm in a way that only Mars is capable of. From the silky

rhythm section to the infectious hook, the track flows effortlessly from one section to the next, telling the powerful, all-too-relatable tale of trying to hold on to a fleeting relationship for just one more moment.

Ultimately, "The Romantic" proves that even after nearly a decade away from solo releases, Bruno Mars has lost none of the qualities that made him a global superstar. The album is concise yet impactful, blending polished production, exceptional vocals and thoughtful songwriting into a project that rewards repeat listens. After nine years of anticipation, Mars delivered a reminder that true pop craftsmanship never goes out of style.



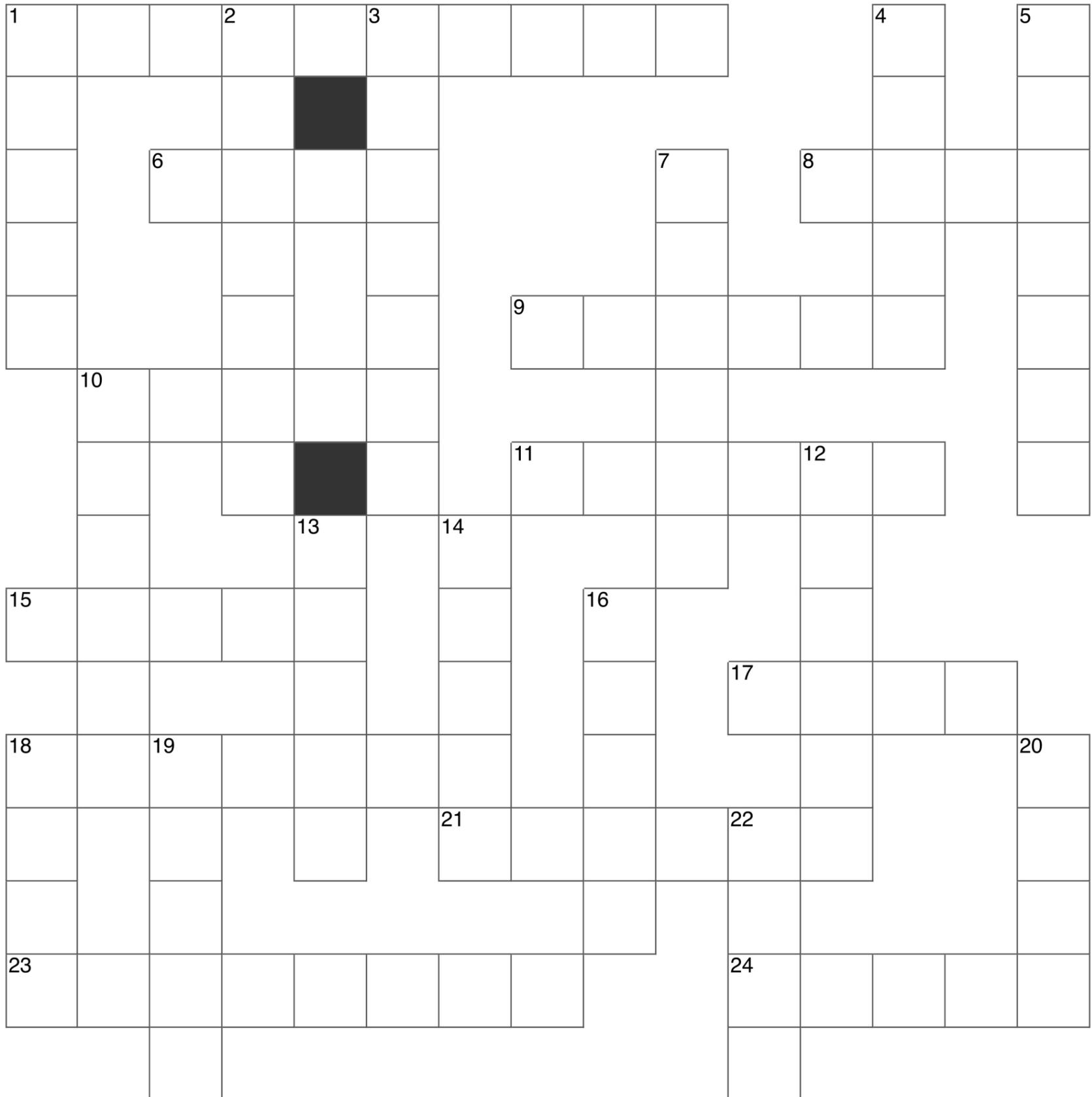
IMAGE COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS.

Bruno Mars singing at concert.



Devan Sutaria is a senior double majoring in biochemistry and molecular biology.

Walk the Red Carpet With This Crossword!



Across

- 1. Script recognized at the Oscars
- 6. The medium celebrated at the Oscars
- 8. Star-studded event like the Oscars
- 9. Art form honored by the Academy
- 10. Location of the Oscar ceremony
- 11. Thank-you given by an Oscar winner
- 15. Original Score Oscar category
- 17. Top honor, as in Picture or Director
- 18. Red carpet sparkle at the Oscars
- 21. Another name for an Oscar
- 23. Helmer of an Oscar-worthy movie
- 24. Where Oscar winners accept awards

Down

- 1. Oscar category for audio mixing
- 2. Oscar category for film assembly
- 3. One chosen for an Oscar honor
- 4. Common genre for Oscar contenders
- 5. Group that presents the Oscars
- 7. Recipient of an Oscar statuette
- 10. Effects category at the Oscars
- 12. Genre that sometimes wins Oscars
- 13. Performer hoping for an Oscar win
- 14. Type of film honored at the Oscars
- 16. To recognize with an Oscar
- 18. Color of the Oscar trophy
- 19. A golden statuette given at the Oscars
- 20. How Academy members choose winners
- 22. One who emcees the Oscar ceremony

COMING UP

Get live stats @GoDrewRangers

FRIDAY, MARCH 20
WTEN @ Ursinus
Collegeville, PA
2:30 PM

TUESDAY, MARCH 24
MVB vs. Kean
Madison, NJ
7:00 PM

SATURDAY, MARCH 28
MTEN vs. Susquehanna
Madison, NJ
12:00 PM

TUESDAY, MARCH 31
BASE vs. Mt. St. Vincent
Madison, NJ
3:30 PM

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INSIDE:

Oscars Crossword!

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Rangers Power Past Catholic to Claim Landmark Series

Gillian Sampson
Sports Editor

In comparison to years past, the 2026 Drew Baseball squad has a different feel to them. After capping off their first series win over Catholic University of America Cardinals in eight years, they proved their newfound energy is more than just a feeling.

Pitcher Jayce Thoroughman ('29) delivered a standout performance on the mound in his first season as a Ranger, while Nick Bisaccia ('26) powered the offense as Drew University defeated Catholic University of America 10-2 on Sunday, March 15 to secure a series victory in Landmark Conference play.

Thoroughman tossed seven strong innings, allow-



IMAGES COURTESY OF PETER ROSS

Thoroughman ('29) turned in a gem just one run on two hits while striking out eight. The freshman kept Catholic's hitters off balance throughout the afternoon, helping Drew take control early and maintain the lead.

Bisaccia led the Rangers' offense, blasting two home runs and driving in

multiple runs. His power at the plate helped Drew gradually build separation before breaking the game open late.

The Rangers pulled away in the eighth inning, scoring five runs to extend their advantage. A two-run double from Aidan Mitchell ('27) highlighted the rally

before Bisaccia added a two-run homer to make it 10-0.

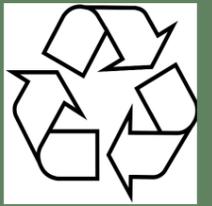
Catholic scored twice late in the game, including a ninth-inning home run, but the Rangers' pitching and timely hitting proved decisive. With the win, Drew captured the three-game series and gained early momentum in Landmark Conference play as the season continues.

The 8-4 Rangers are set to take on Elizabethtown College on March 21 and 22.



Gillian Sampson is a senior currently in the Masters of Education Program.

Thank you for reading and recycling The Drew Acorn



Getting to Know Rangers On and Off the Court: Tennis Natalia Zamora

Gillian Sampson
Sports Editor

Natalia Zamora ('26) from Gurnee, Ill. has made the most of her time at Drew, building a reputation as both a dependable tennis competitor and a dedicated scholar. As a member of the Rangers women's tennis team, she has spent the past four years successfully balancing the demands of collegiate athletics with her academic passions.

Zamora has been a regular contributor in both singles and doubles throughout her career. Across multiple seasons, Zamora has helped anchor the Rangers lineup, contributing important points while bringing energy and leadership to the team. A two-time Landmark Conference champion, Zamora earned captain honors for her senior year, hoping to cap off her storybook career with one final championship push.

Off the court, Zamora is an anthropology major with minors in African Studies and teaching. Her academic interests focus on understanding cultures and belief



IMAGES COURTESY OF NATALIA ZAMORA

Zamora ('26) was an integral part of the 2023 and 2024 championship systems, which is why her favorite class at Drew has been Anthropology of Religion, a course she enjoys because it explores the purpose and influence of organized religion in societies around the world.

This semester, she is also student-teaching in Newark, gaining valuable classroom experience as she prepares for a future in education.

For Zamora, the best part of the student-athlete experience is the sense of community. She loves being part of a team and supporting other Drew athletic programs by attending games and matches across campus.

Balancing academics, athletics and teaching re-

sponsibilities requires discipline, but Zamora credits tennis with helping her succeed. "Being a student-athlete has helped me with time management," she said.

As she finishes her senior year at Drew, Zamora leaves a lasting impact on the women's tennis program, not only through her performances on the court but also through her commitment to learning, teaching and supporting her teammates. Her journey shows how the student-athlete experience can shape both a competitor and a future educator.

Gillian Sampson is a senior currently in the Masters of Education Program



Photo Story: Lacrosse vs. FDU

Peter Ross
Chief Photographer

